

REMARKS

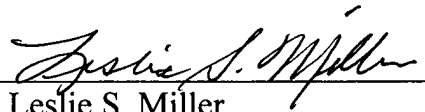
In the October 18, 2005, Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 1 because of an informality. On the merits, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Laverty, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,769,120). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laverty, Jr., et al. in view of Dougherty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,306). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laverty, Jr., et al. Claims 2 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 12.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 2, and cancelled Claim 2. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 6, and 7 remain dependent upon Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claim 11 to correct the informality and to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 12, and cancelled Claim 12. Claims 13, 14, 18, 19, and 21 have been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 11. Claims 13-21 remain dependent upon Claim 11. Applicants have also cancelled Claims 8-10. In so doing, Applicants believe that they have put the application into condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, and 13-21 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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